

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 /070 W

----- 103369

P 021622Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4377

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

S E C R E T BAMA KO 2671

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UNSC, ZA, SF, ML

SUBJECT: US ABSTENTION ON ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT IN SECURITY
COUNCIL-CHARGE CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

REF : STATE 190369

1. CHARGE CALLED AUGUST 3 ON FOREIGN MINISTER CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO AS DIRECTED REFTEL TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR US ABSTENTION ON SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) RESOLUTION WHICH CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICA FOR ITS INCURSION IN EARLY JULY INTO ZAMBIAN TERRITORY. AFTER STATING THAT US FULLY APPRECIATED ZAMBIA'S REASON FOR GOING TO SC, AND POINTING OUT THAT US HAD MADE CLEAR TO SOUTH AFRICANS HOW DANGEROUS WE BELIEVE MILITARY ACTION CAN BE, CHARGE SAID RESOLUTION SHOULD HAVE RESULTED FROM MORE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF FACTS SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT. FOR THAT REASON, WE HAD TO ABSTAIN ON A RECORDED VOTE.

2. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT THE US WAS ENGAGED IN AN EFFORT LAUNCHED BY SECRETARY AT LUSAKA AND WAS, WE BELIEVED,
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MAKING PROGRESS. WE HOPED THAT THE GOM UNDERSTOOD

OUR ABSTENTION AND WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US EFFORTS TO RESOLVE PEACEFULLY THE PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. CISSOKHO SEEMED AWARE OF THE ABSTENTION, BUT NOT OF THE DETAILS. (HE HAD BEEN ON VACATION LAST WEEK AND WAS STILL OFFICIALLY ON LEAVE TODAY.) RATHER THAN REPLY IN SPECIFIC TERMS TO ZAMBIAN ISSUE, HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THE US TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. IF THE US COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM, THERE WOULD BE RESULTS; IF THE US PRESSED SOUTH AFRICA, THAT COUNTRY WOULD EVOLVE, AND THERE WOULD BE A MORE HUMANE SITUATION THERE. MALIANS DID NOT LOOK UPON WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS AS COLONIALISTS OR EXPATRIATES. THEY HAD LONG SINCE CUT THEIR TIES WITH ANY MOTHER COUNTRY. THEY WERE AFRICANS AND CISSOKHO HOPED THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT OTHER AFRICANS AS EQUALS. AS AN ARMY OFFICER, SAID CISSOKHO, HE SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH A WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICER GIVING ORDERS TO A BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIER. BUT IF THE BLACK WERE CAPABLE, AND HAD THE QUALIFICATIONS, HE TOO SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME AN OFFICER. CISSOKHO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT MALI HAD FAITH IN THE US AND HOPED TO AVOID WAR.

4. CHARGE SAID THAT US APPROACHES TO SOUTH AFRICA WERE DIFFICULT, BUT VERY IMPORTANT. WE HAD INFORMED THE GOM PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH VORSTER. WE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS INFORMED ON EVENTS SUCH AS THE US ABSTENTION ON THE ZAMBIAN COMPLAINT. CISSOKHO THANKED CHARGE.

5. NOTE: REFTEL WAS XGDS, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY. ASSUME CAT. 3. DAWKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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